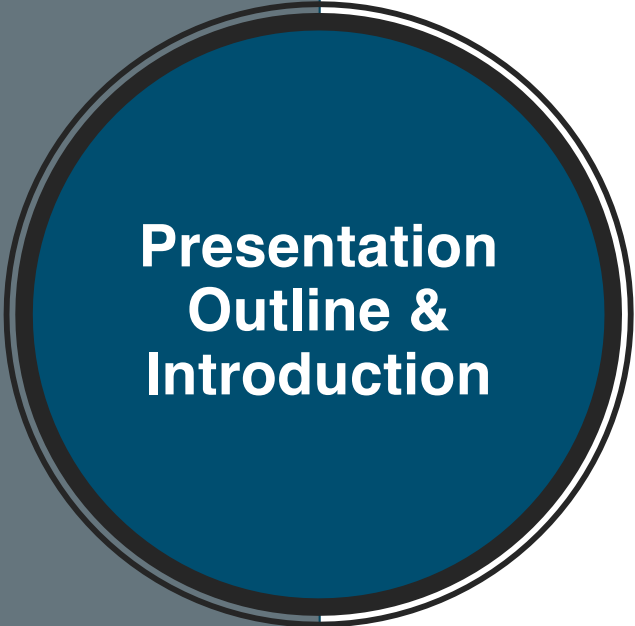


Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program Overview and Status Update

Indiana Broadband Office



**Presentation
Outline &
Introduction**

BEAD Program Overview

BEAD Process and Timeline

Challenge Process Recap

Round One Overview

Local Participation Opportunities

Digital Opportunity Program Overview

Q&A

What is the BEAD Program?

Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment



BEAD is a national program that helps bring high-speed internet service to places that do not have internet or do not have fast enough service.



The BEAD Program is the biggest federal project ever to help improve internet access, with \$42.45 billion given across the country. **Indiana received \$868 million to help bring better internet to the state.**



BEAD works as a funding program. The federal government gives money to each state's broadband office, which then gives it to internet companies to build new or better internet networks.



BEAD Program Goals

- **Access: Building Infrastructure**
 - Building the networks needed to bring high-speed internet to every community helps more homes and businesses get connected, especially in areas that don't have any service or fast service.
- **Affordability: Making Internet Affordable for Everyone**
 - Helping make internet service affordable means all Indiana residents can get online. This creates long-term solutions that benefit everyone.
- **Adoption and Fair Access: Growing the Economy**
 - Giving more people access to the internet helps communities grow by supporting jobs, healthcare, and education, especially in places that need it the most.



Why is the BEAD Program Important?

- **Reliable internet service is a necessity in the modern world**
 - People need the internet for work, school, healthcare, and staying connected to their communities.
- **Helps communities who may not get service otherwise**
 - BEAD brings high-speed internet to places that do not have it, as many people still cannot use or access the internet in their homes.
- **Makes internet access more affordable**
 - The program requires providers to offer an affordable option to customers who would have been eligible for the Affordable Connectivity Program.
- **Creates jobs and supports businesses**
 - Better internet helps businesses grow and can bring new jobs to communities.
- **Improves quality of life**
 - With better internet connection, people can learn new skills, find jobs, and connect with friends, family, and loved ones.



Locations eligible for BEAD



Unserved locations are the top priority of the BEAD program. **Unserved locations** have no service or service below 25 Mbps download, 3 Mbps upload.



Next on the priority list are **underserved locations**. These locations have service above 25 Mbps/3 Mbps but under 100 Mbps/20 Mbps.



After reaching the first two types, Indiana will prioritize getting gigabit symmetrical service to **Community Anchor Institutions**, like schools, hospitals, libraries, etc.

BEAD prioritizes getting fiber service to as many locations as possible. If fiber is not possible or is very expensive, then other technologies can be used.

How does BEAD Work?

Initial Proposal

- Indiana creates a plan for how to use BEAD funding to expand broadband. This plan had to be approved by the Federal government.

Challenge Process

- The opportunity to collect more complete and accurate data about existing internet service in Indiana and create the best possible list for eligibility.

Finalize Eligible Address List

- The eligible address list is a final list of homes, businesses, and community places that do not have high-speed internet or have limited access and are expected to be reached with BEAD funds.

Subgrantee Selection

- Providers apply for funding, and the Indiana Broadband Office awards funds for eligible locations. **The goal of subgrantee selection is to reach every single eligible location.**

Awards and Project Buildout

- Awards are finalized and approved by the Federal government. Then, internet service providers get to work.

Challenge Process Results

Eligible Locations

- Indiana has **144,478** locations eligible for BEAD funding.

Unserved Locations

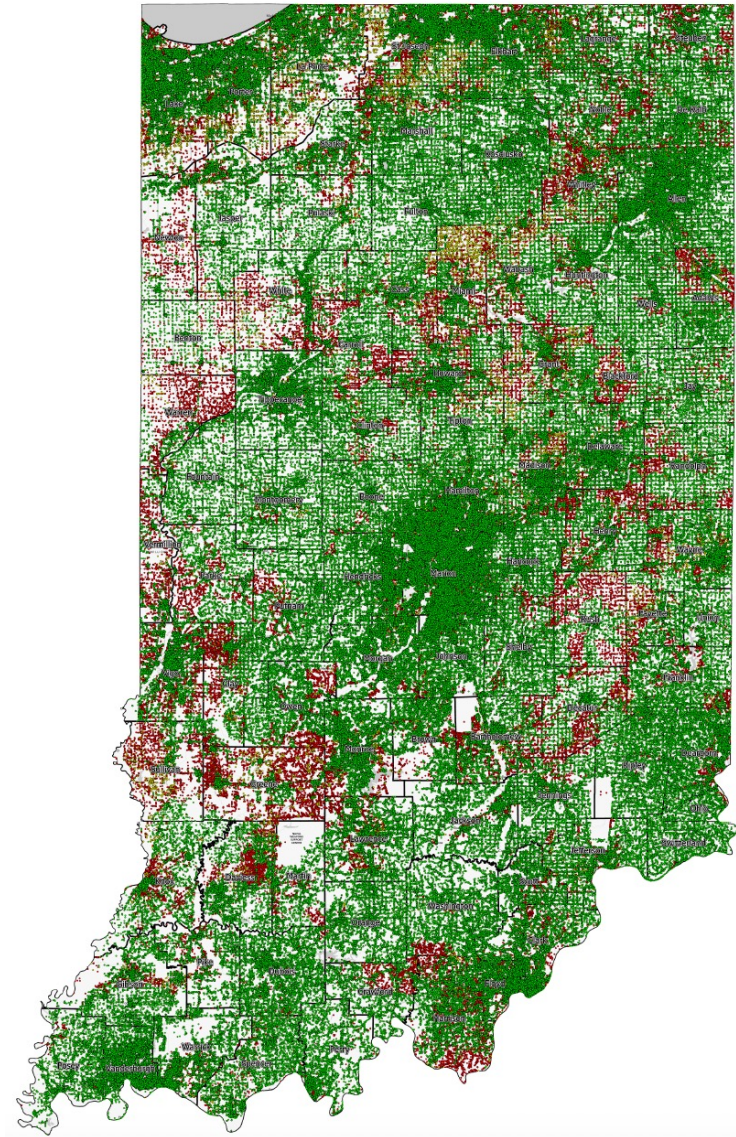
- There are **107,158** unserved locations in Indiana.

Underserved Locations

- There are **37,320** underserved locations in Indiana.

State Challenge Process Results

- Served
 - Underserved
 - Unserved
- } Eligible for BEAD

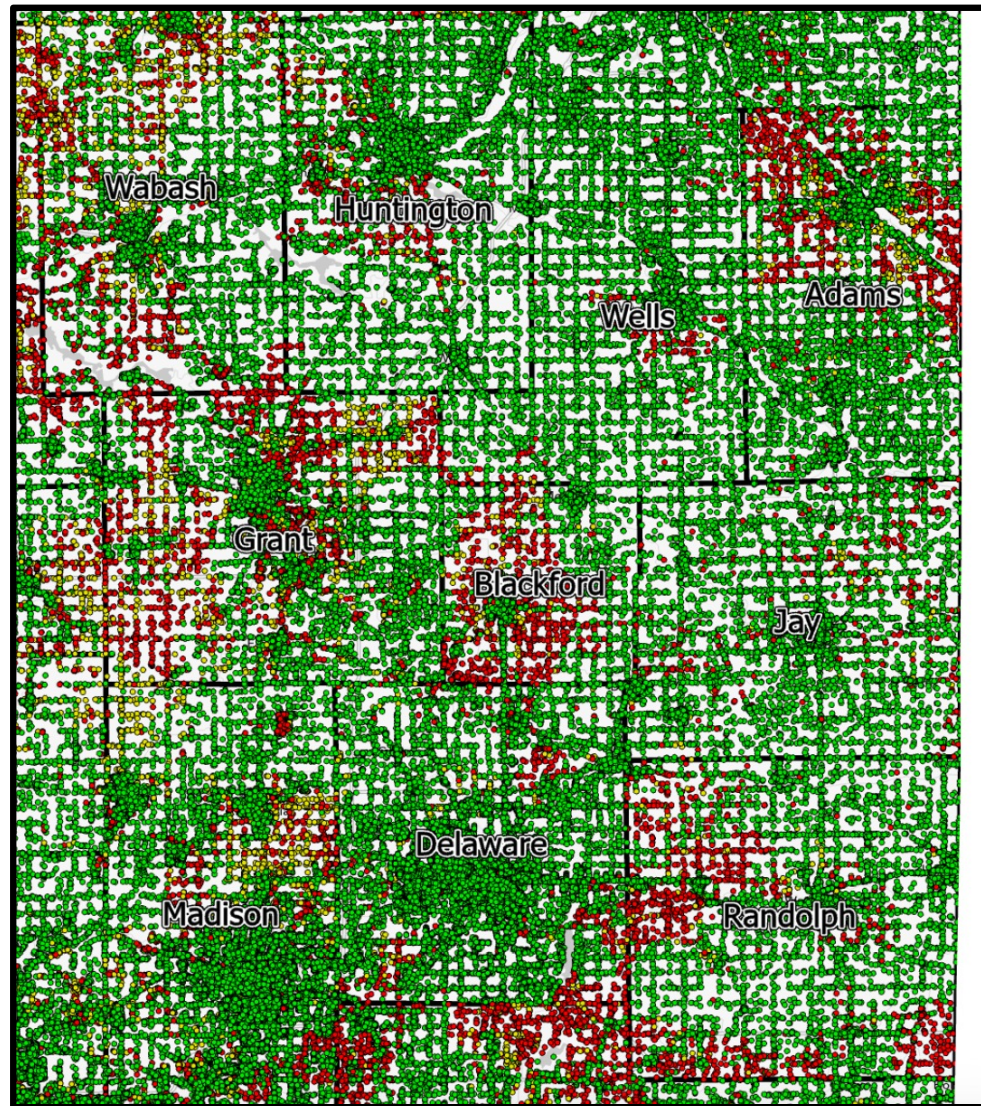
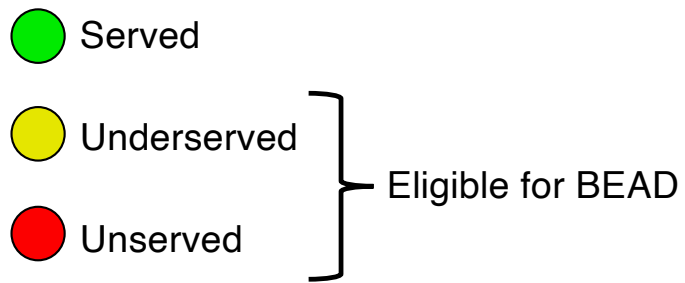


State Challenge Process Results

County	Count of Eligible Locations
Jay	517
Adams	1,583
Wells	266
Blackford	1,131
Delaware	997
Randolph	1,618



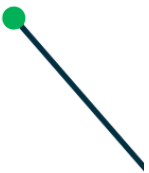
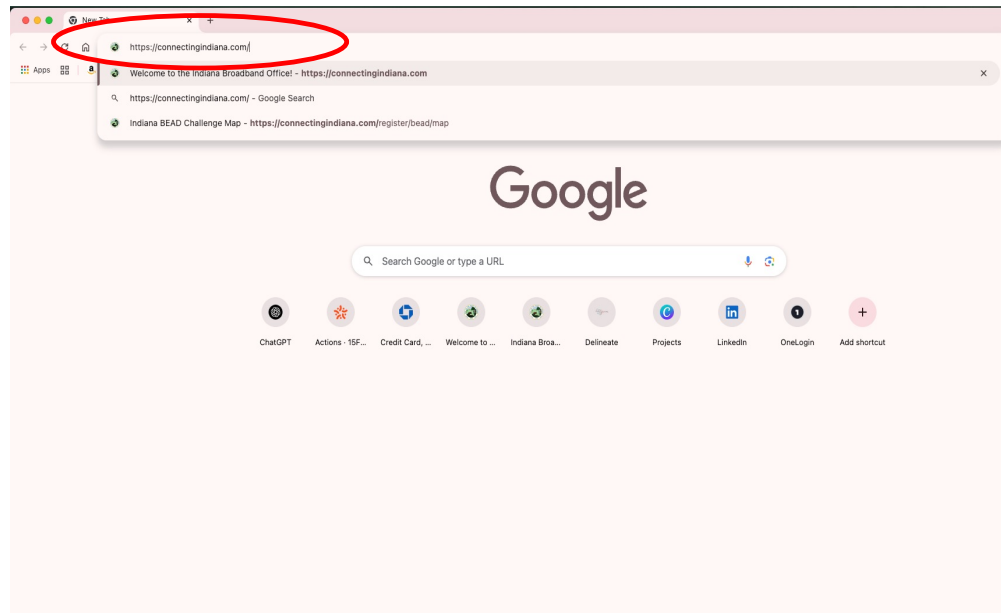
State Challenge Process Results



BEAD Eligibility – Check your Address

How to check if your address is eligible for BEAD funds:

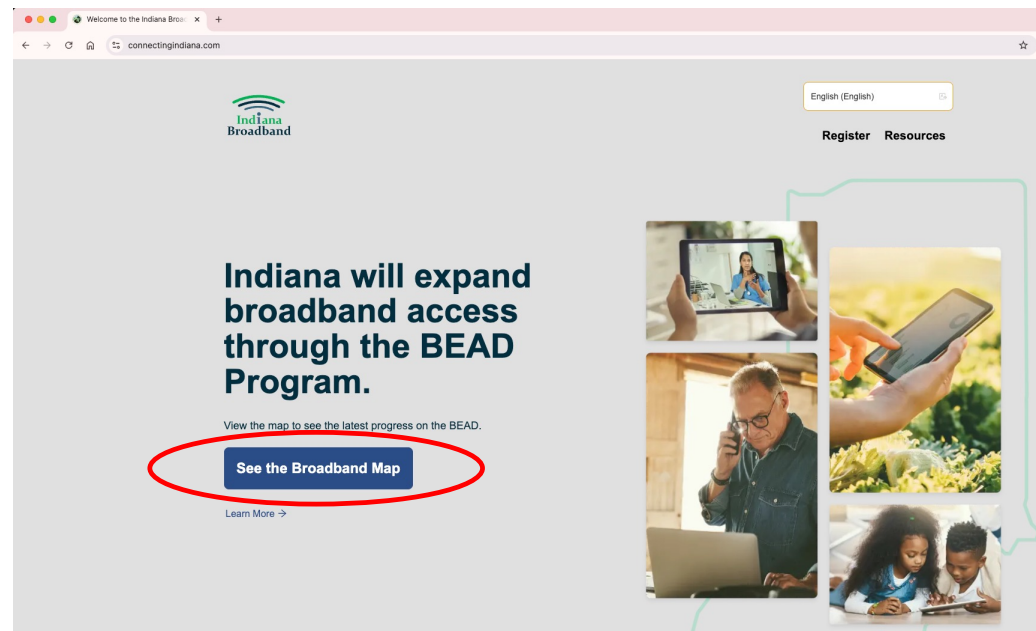
- **Step 1:** Search <https://connectingindiana.com/> in your browser's search bar.



BEAD Eligibility – Check your Address

How to check if your address is eligible for BEAD funds:

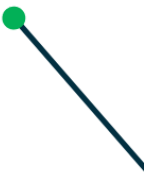
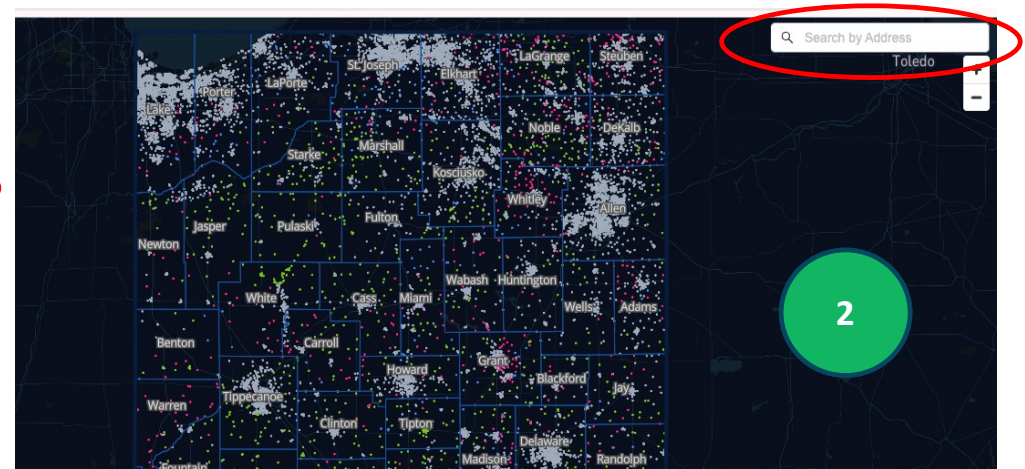
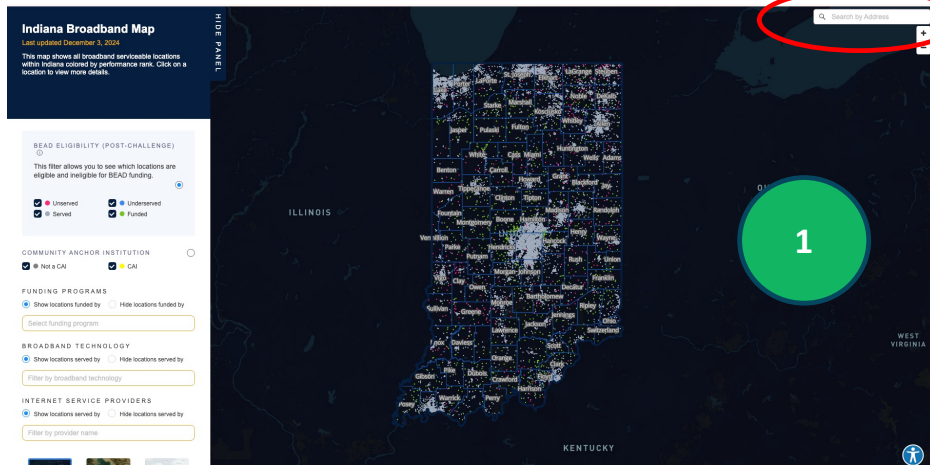
- **Step 2:** Click “**See the Broadband Map**” in the middle of the screen.



BEAD Eligibility – Check your Address

How to check if your address is eligible for BEAD funds:

- **Step 3:** Search your address in the website's search bar.



BEAD Eligibility – Check your Address

How to check if your address is eligible for BEAD funds:

- **Step 4:** Use the map legend to check your status and see providers who may already serve your address.
 - **Tip:** this sidebar is scrollable!

The screenshot displays the 'Indiana Broadband Map' interface. On the left is a sidebar with the following sections:

- Indiana Broadband Map**
Last updated December 3, 2024
This map shows all broadband serviceable locations within Indiana colored by performance rank. Click on a location to view more details.
[← Back to filters](#)
- ADDRESS**
118 W Kentucky St, Pennville, 47369
- IDENTIFIERS**
Census Block GEOID: 180759627003000 | Block Group GEOID: 180759627003
- BUILDING TYPE**: Business | **UNIT COUNT**: 1 unit
- PROVIDERS**
 - Cable**
Xfinity
Performance: 1200.0 mbps (Residential), 35.0 mbps (Business) | Service type: **Served**
 - Copper**
Brightspeed
Performance: 40.0 mbps (Residential), 3.0 mbps (Business) | Service type: **Underserved**
 - Licensed Fixed Wireless**
WATCH TV
Performance: [unclear] | Service type: **Served**

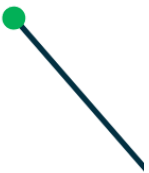
On the right is a map showing serviceable locations as colored dots. A red circle highlights a location on the map, and a red arrow points from the sidebar to this location. A vertical 'HIDE PANEL' label is on the left side of the map. A green dot with a line is visible on the far right edge of the image.

Now and Later in BEAD

Happening Now

- **Subgrantee selection (Round 1)** – The IBO is currently running the subgrantee selection part of the BEAD Program. This is the process where ISPs apply for BEAD funding during specific time windows. Round 1 was open from late December through mid-February, and the IBO is currently reviewing every application that providers submitted during Round 1.

What's Next

- **Rounds 2 & 3 of Subgrantee Selection** – The IBO may need up to three rounds of subgrantee selection to make sure every eligible address gets service. This can take time and collaboration with providers.
 - **Awards** – The IBO will award BEAD projects to get Indiana residents high-speed internet service once all rounds are complete.
 - **Project Buildout** – Providers will begin building the project areas that they were awarded during subgrantee selection within 48 months of their award.
- 

Subgrantee Selection Timeline

Round 1: December - February

- A 45-day application window for ISPs to submit project proposals (now closed).
- Will be the most extensive round.

Round 2 : April

- Highly dependent on the outcomes of Round 1.
- The IBO will work collaboratively with ISPs during Round 2 to capture the remaining eligible locations left over from Round 1.

Round 3: TBD

- Round 3 will take place only if needed after the first two rounds.

Finalize Projects and NTIA Approval: Summer 2025

- The IBO must conclude award selection, documentation, NTIA meetings, the Final Proposal document, and the public comment period by mid-summer.

Project Buildout Begins: Late 2025 and Beyond

- Providers have 48 months to complete their awarded projects.

Award Announcements

Preliminary Awards

After each round of applications, the IBO will inform internet service providers about their award status. These awards **cannot** be announced publicly.

Provisional Awards

Once all rounds are complete, the IBO will meet with the NTIA. At the meeting, the NTIA should provisionally approve all awards. Awards **can** be made public at this point.

Final Awards

Awards will become final only after the IBO submits its Final Proposal to the NTIA and it receives approval from NTIA and NIST.



Subgrantee Selection Round 1 Outcomes

Round 1 Summary

- The IBO received **743** applications from **34** internet service providers.
- **94%** of BEAD-eligible locations in the state received at least one application
- 82% of eligible locations were included in **more than one** application
- 93% of locations that received a bid were covered by a **fiber bid**
- The average match amount provided by internet service providers was about **45% of total project costs**



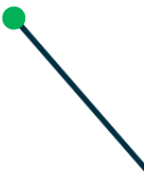
Scoring and Review Process



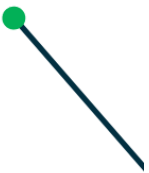
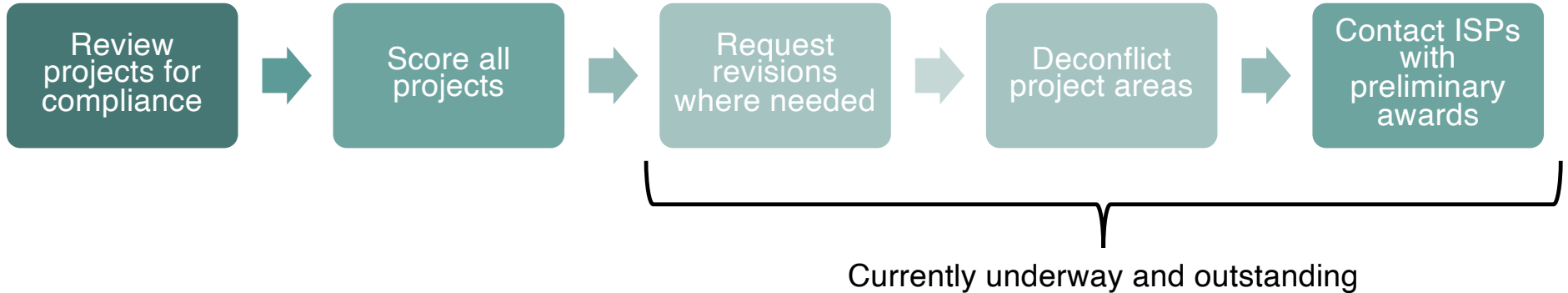
Scoring and Review Process



Category	Total Possible Points
Minimum BEAD Program Outlay	45
Affordability	20
Fair Labor Practices	15
Service Levels in Project Area	12
Local Coordination	5
Speed to Deployment	3
TOTAL	100



Scoring and Review Process



Local Participation Opportunities

Local Coordination and Support Scoring

- During all three rounds of subgrantee selection, local government leaders can write a letter of support for internet service providers and their projects.
- A letter of support is worth up to 5% of the total project score.
- Eligible local government leaders include County Commissioners, County Council Members, Auditors, Mayors, and City Council Members.
- Local government leaders can choose to write one, multiple, or no letters of support.

Letter Contents	Points Received
Basic letter of support with no specific info	1 point
Letter that includes details about meetings or correspondence	3 points
Letter that includes the above and a justification for the support	5 points



Local Participation Opportunities

Permitting

- Start the permitting process early to avoid delays. Assess your needs and coordinate with local, state, and federal agencies on application requirements.
- Local governments review applications, assess compliance with regulations, and grant or deny permits related to locally owned land, utilities, and infrastructure.
- Regular and proactive communication from local governments regarding permitting requirements can help streamline the process.
- NTIA-funded projects must comply with all federal, state, and local laws, including NEPA and NHPA.
- Effective permitting at the local level supports infrastructure, integrates citizen voices, and protects worker and community safety.
- Local permitting offices can expect permit requests to begin early in 2026, as broadband projects start getting underway.
- IBO will compile permitting resources and provide updates through our monthly newsletter.



Local Participation Opportunities

Getting Involved in BEAD

- BEAD project awards will be announced this summer.
 - **Check the IBO website and sign up for the monthly newsletter for updates.**
- Check to see if your address is BEAD-eligible by searching the Indiana Broadband map.
- Find out how your community has participated in BEAD.
 - **Contact your county officials.**
- Stay engaged with BEAD.
 - **Reach out to the IBO with questions or concerns.**



Digital Opportunity

- The Digital Opportunity (DO) Program is a national program that is focused on giving communities the skills, resources, and technology to use the internet effectively and safely.
- Indiana was given \$15 million to award to eligible applicants who have programs/initiatives to improve their community's ability to use the internet safely and effectively.
- You can think about the DO program like the sister program to BEAD:
 - BEAD provides communities with the connection to the internet
 - DO provides communities with the skills to use the internet



Digital Opportunity

- **The DO application is expected to open on April 30th, 2025.**
- Visit the DO website for updates about the program:
<https://www.in.gov/indianabroadband/digital-opportunity/>
- Email IndianaBroadband@IOT.in.gov to subscribe to the DO newsletter and receive updates regarding the DO application.



Resources



**Indiana Broadband
Office Website:**

in.gov/indianabroadband/



**Initial Proposal
Volume 2:**

[in.gov/indianabroadband/
files/IndianaApproved
Volume2.pdf](https://in.gov/indianabroadband/files/IndianaApprovedVolume2.pdf)



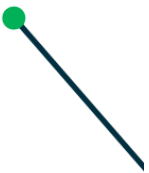
**Map of Eligible BEAD
Locations:**

ConnectingIndiana.com



Email:

[IndianaBroadband@
IOT.IN.GOV](mailto:IndianaBroadband@IOT.IN.GOV)



Q&A Session